PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Thomas FRIETSCH

Application No.: 10/698,016

Filing Date: October 31, 2003

Confirmation No.: 7146

Examiner: Thomas Dailey

Group Art Unit: 2452

Title: NETWORK SERVER AND METHOD OF DISCOVERY OF A NETWORK NODE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on ___November 6, 2009___ .

☒ The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is $540.00 (37 CFR 41.20).

☐ No Additional Fee Required.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

☐(a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d)) for the total number of months checked below:

☐ 1st Month $130   ☐ 2nd Month $490   ☐ 3rd Month $1110   ☐ 4th Month $1730

☐ The extension fee has already been filed in this application.

☒(b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of ___$ 540___ . At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas FRIETSCH

By:
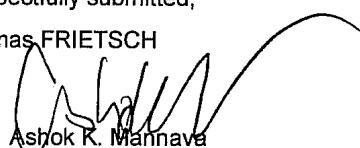
Ashok K. Mannava

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg No. : 45,301

Date : November 6, 2009

Telephone : (703) 652-3822

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APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Sir:

This is an Appeal Brief in connection with the decisions of the Examiner in a Final Office Action mailed August 6, 2009, and in connection with the Notice of Appeal filed herewith. It is respectfully submitted that the present application has been twice rejected. Each of the topics required in an Appeal Brief and a Table of Contents are presented herewith and labeled appropriately.

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(1)   Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.

(2)   Related Appeals and Interferences

The Appellant is unaware of any appeals or interferences related to this case.

(3)   Status of Claims

Claims 1-31 were canceled. Claims 32-48 are pending in the present application of

which claims 32, 35, 40, 43 and 46 are independent. Claims 32-48 are all rejected and are all

appealed.

(4)   Status of Amendments

No amendment was filed subsequent to the Final Office Action dated August 6, 2009.

(5)   Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

In this appeal, independent claims 32, 35, 40, 43, and 46 are argued together. It should

be understood that the citations below to the original disclosure as providing support for the

claimed features are merely exemplary and do not limit the claimed features to only those

citations.

32. A method of discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 8, para. [0044], lines 1-5; FIG. 5, steps 500, 502, and 504; page 7, para. [0039], lines 1-5)

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 4-8; page 6, para. [0025], lines 1-4; FIG 2, step 202)

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for that particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion; (see specification page 8, para. [0045], lines 1-3; FIG. 5, step 506; page 9, para. [0041], lines 1-3)

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node. (see specification page 5, para. [0018], lines 2-5)

35. A method of discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 8, para. [0044], lines 1-5; FIG. 5, steps 500, 502, and 504; page 7, para. [0039], lines 1-5)

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 4-8; page 6, para. [0025], lines 1-4; FIG 2, step 202)

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery

portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and

initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in

response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node

to the discovery portion; (see specification page 8, para. [0045], lines 1-3; FIG. 5, step 506; page

9, para. [0041], lines 1-3)

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status

information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other

nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography

including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the

configuration of the particular node. (see specification page 5, para. [0018], lines 2-5)

40. A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the

server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has

been connected to a computer network including plural nodes, one of which is the particular

node, the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion; (see specification page 5, para. [0023],

lines 1-3; network server 100; discovery server 112)

the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection

of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial

request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access

request including the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; network server 100; access request 106; network node 102)

the network portion being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; page 5, para. [0020], lines 1-3; network server 100; access request 106; discovery request 110; network node 102)

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 4-8; page 6, para. [0025], lines 1-4; network server 100 discovery request 110; discovery server 112; network node 102)

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion; (see specification page 5, para. [0022], lines 1-3; page 5, para. [0021], lines 1-5; discovery server 112; discovery request 110; discovery program 116)

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the

particular node. (see specification page 5, para. [0018], lines 1-5; network node 102; SNMP polls 118)

43. A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion; (see specification page 5, para. [0023], lines 1-3; network server 100; discovery server 112)

the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; network server 100; access request 106; network node 102)

the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node; (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; page 5, para. [0020], lines 1-3; network server 100; access request 106; discovery request 110; network node 102)

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network; (see specification page 5,

para. [0019], lines 4-8; page 6, para. [0025], lines 1-4; network server 100 discovery request 110; discovery server 112; network node 102)

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion; (see specification page 5, para. [0022], lines 1-3; page 5, para. [0021], lines 1-5; discovery server 112; discovery request 110; discovery program 116)

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node. (see specification page 5, para. [0018], lines 1-5; network node 102; SNMP polls 118)

46. A computer network for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to the computer network, the network comprising:

a server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor; and (see specification pages 5-6, para. [0023], lines 1-5; network server 100; discovery server 112)

plural nodes, one of which is the particular node; (see specification page 4, para. [0014], lines 1-3; network node 102)

the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion, the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; network server 100; discovery server 112; access request 106; network node 102)

the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node, (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 1-8; page 5, para. [0020], lines 1-3; network server 100; access request 106; discovery request 110; network node 102)

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network, (see specification page 5, para. [0019], lines 4-8; page 6, para. [0025], lines 1-4; network server 100 discovery request 110; discovery server 112; network node 102)

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular

node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion, (see specification page 5, para. [0022], lines 1-3; page 5, para. [0021], lines 1-5; discovery server 112; discovery request 110; discovery program 116)

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node. (see specification page 5, para. [0018], lines 1-5; network node 102; SNMP polls 118)

(6)   Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

A.   Claims 32-33, 35-36, 38, 39, 40-41, 43-44, and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0005100) (hereinafter "Barnard"), in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter "AAPA") with the citations referring to the applicant's specification.

B.   Claims 34, 37, 42, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of AAPA in further view of what was known in the art as applied to claims 36, 41, 44, and 47, and in further view of what was well known in the art at the time of the invention.

C.　　Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard, in view of AAPA, and in further view of Sistanizadeh et al. (US Pat. 5,790,548) (hereinafter "Sistanizadeh").

(7)   Arguments

A.   The rejection of claims 32-33, 35-36, 38, 39, 40-41, 43-44, and 46-47 under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of AAPA should be reversed.

The test for determining if a claim is rendered obvious by one or more references for

purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is set forth in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex*

Inc., 550 U.S.__, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007):

> "Under §103, the scope and content of the prior art are to be determined; differences
> between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be ascertained; and the level of
> ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved. Against this background the obviousness or
> nonobviousness of the subject matter is determined. Such secondary considerations as
> commercial success, long felt but unsolved needs, failure of others, etc., might be utilized
> to give light to the circumstances surrounding the origin of the subject matter sought to
> be patented." Quoting *Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City*, 383 U.S. 1 (1966).

As set forth in MPEP 2143.03, to ascertain the differences between the prior art and the

claims at issue, "[a]ll claim limitations must be considered" because "all words in a claim must

be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424

F.2d 1382, 1385. According to the Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under

35 U.S.C. 103 in view of *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, Federal Register, Vol. 72, No.

195, 57526, 57529 (October 10, 2007), once the *Graham* factual inquiries are resolved, there

must be a determination of whether the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art based on any one of the following proper rationales:

> (A) Combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable
> results; (B) Simple substitution of one known element for another to obtain predictable
> results; (C) Use of known technique to improve similar devices (methods, or products) in
> the same way; (D) Applying a known technique to a known device (method, or product)
> ready for improvement to yield predictable results; (E) ''Obvious to try''—choosing
> from a finite number of identified, predictable solutions, with a reasonable expectation of

success; (F) Known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for use in either the same field or a different one based on design incentives or other market forces if the variations would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art; (G) Some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art that would have led one of ordinary skill to modify the prior art reference or to combine prior art reference teachings to arrive at the claimed invention. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S._, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Furthermore, as set forth in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, quoting from *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (CA Fed. 2006), "[R]ejections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasonings with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness."

Therefore, if the above-identified criteria and rationales are not met, then the cited reference(s) fails to render obvious the claimed invention and, thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited reference(s).

Claims 32-33, 35-36, 38, 39, 40-41, 43-44, and 46-47

Claims 32-33, 35-36, 38, 39, 40-41, 43-44, and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of the AAPA.

Claim 32 recites, "the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network [.]" (Emphasis added). The Examiner alleges paragraph 74, lines 30-35 of Barnard teach this feature. The Applicants previously stated that Barnard does not disclose authentication of a node, but rather, only discloses that a DHCP server notifies a discovery module 84 when the printing device

acknowledges an assigned IP address (paragraph 74, lines 30-35 of Barnard). An

acknowledgement of an assigned IP address is only acknowledgement that the printer has

received the IP address that was sent to it by the DHCP server, and is not the same as

authentication. The Examiner does not dispute the fact that Barnard does not teach

authentication, but rather, argues that "[b]eing an *authentic* node of a network is not the

equivalent to being an *authenticated* node of a network." The Examiner interprets "authentic

node" to mean a node that is "real" (see Office Action dated August 6, 2009, page 2, paragraph

4).

During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given their broadest <u>reasonable</u>

interpretation consistent with the specification." *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 75

USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 2005); (MPEP § 2111). The Examiner interprets "authentic node" to

mean a node that is "real." The Applicants contends that this interpretation is not reasonable in

light of the specification. Page 6, paragraphs 25-26 of the instant specification states,

> ...prior to granting of access the authenticity of the network node and / or
> of its user and / or of its access rights are checked. After successful authentication
> and / or successful check of the access rights the network node is granted access
> to the network and is logically reconnected. In response to the logical
> reconnection of the network node a discovery request is generated and sent to the
> discovery server....

Thus, the specification clearly describes authenticating a node and supplying the

discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion <u>only</u>

<u>after authenticating the node.</u> Thus, a reasonable interpretation of the claimed "authentic node"

is a node that was successfully authenticated. There is no support in the Applicants specification for determining whether a node is a real node or a fake node, and thus the Examiner's interpretation is unreasonable. Certainly, the Examiner cannot apply an interpretation of a claim feature that is not enabled by the Applicants' specification.

Furthermore, if an "authentic node" is a "real" node according to the Examiner's interpretation, then a non-authentic node is a non-real node or a fake node. A node not being real is nonsensical. Any device that can connect to the network may be a node, so it is unclear what may be considered a fake node or what distinguishes a fake node from a real node.

Additionally, given the Examiner's interpretation of "authentic node," Barnard still fails to teach or suggest determining whether a node is a real node or a fake node and supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is a real node. The Examiner appears to allege that because the printing device acknowledges an assigned IP address, Barnard discloses determining whether the printing device is a real node. A fake node may also send a message acknowledging an IP address, and thus, there is no disclosure in Barnard of determining whether a node is a real node. Accordingly, Barnard fails to teach or suggest supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is a real node.

Claim 32 recites, "...the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node...." The Examiner alleges that Barnard, paragraph [0074], teaches this feature. This Examiner states this section describes a DHCP discover request which includes a MAC

address. The Examiner contends that the "DHCP discover request" of Barnard is the "initial

request." The Examiner also alleges that the "MAC address" is the "assigned address."

However, the MAC address is not an assigned address. A MAC address is a permanent unique

identifier of a network card given at the time of manufacture of the network card, and it is not

later assignable. A subsequent sentence from the same paragraph makes clear that an assigned

address is different than a MAC address stating, "[t]he MAC address and the assigned IP address

are provided to …." Indeed, Barnard does disclose an assigned address in addition to the MAC

address; however, Barnard does not disclose an initial access request including an assigned

address. Barnard only discloses an initial access request including a MAC address.

Claim 32 recites, "the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other

nodes in the network to determine a network topology, the polled network topology including at

least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of

the particular node." Claim 32 also describes that the discovery procedure is initiated in

response to the initial request from the node establishing a connection to the network. Barnard

fails to teach or suggest these features.

The Examiner initially alleges that paragraph [0077], lines 12-27 of Barnard teach "the

discovery procedure for the particular node including polling network topology, the polled

network topology including other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the

configuration of the particular node." Paragraph [0077], however, does not teach polling

network topology, but rather, only discloses sending an SNMP information request message over

network 10 to the printing device.

The Examiner then admits that Barnard may not disclose polling other nodes in the

network, and then attempts to rely on this feature being taught by AAPA described in the

background of the Applicants' specification. The background of the Applicants' specification

discloses <u>scheduled</u> polling of the network that is typically performed at night when the network

load is low. The background in paragraph 6 then describes the disadvantages of the scheduled

polling. Paragraph 6 states,

> A disadvantage of scheduled discovery which is performed by the NNM
> product is that the discovery procedure can negatively affect network performance
> when the discovery procedure is carried out. This is why the discovery schedule
> is typically set such that the discovery procedure is carried out when the network
> load is low, i.e., during the night. However, performing the discovery at
> predetermined time intervals has the disadvantage that network nodes which are
> connected to the network only temporarily can be missed by the discovery. In
> particular this applies to portable computers, such as lap top computers which are
> frequently connected and disconnected to the network by means of a docking
> station.

Thus, the APPA being relied upon by the Examiner discloses scheduled discovery, and

the combination of the APPA with Barnard would result in the system of Barnard performing

scheduled discovery. Barnard in view of the APPA fails to teach or suggest the discovery

procedure is initiated in response to the initial request from the node establishing a connection to

the network, which is claimed and disclosed in the Applicants specification. Furthermore, it

should be noted that this claimed feature overcomes the downfalls of the AAPA, because the

claimed discovery, which is initiated in response to the initial request from the node establishing a connection to the network, captures devices that are temporarily connected to the network and has less impact on network performance.

For the foregoing reasons, Barnard and AAPA, singularly and in combination, fail to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of claim 32, and reversal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claims 35, 40, 43 and 46 recite features similar to the features of claim 32 described above which are not taught by Barnard or AAPA. Accordingly, reversal of these rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

B.   The rejection of claims 34, 37, 42, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of AAPA in further view of what was known in the art as applied to claims 36, 41, 44, and 47, and in further view of what was well known in the art at the time of the invention should be reversed.

Claims 34, 37, 42, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of AAPA in further view of what was known in the art as applied to claims 36, 41, 44, and 47, and in further view of what was well known in the art at the time of the invention.

Claims 34, 37, 42, and 45 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons stated above regarding claim 32. Accordingly, reversal of these rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

C.   **The rejection of claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Barnard, in view of AAPA, and in further view of Sistanizadeh should

be reversed.

Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard, in

view of AAPA, and in further view of Sistanizadeh.

Claim 48 recites, "wherein the particular node includes a portable computer and a

docking station...." The Examiner alleges that this feature is taught by Barnard (citing

paragraph [0041]) and that it is taught by Sistanizadeh (citing column 12, lines 7-14). However,

neither Barnard nor Sistanizadeh disclose the particular node includes a <u>docking station</u>. The

references only disclose a node including a portable computer.

The Examiner also alleges Sistanizadeh discloses, "the docking station responding to the

portable computer being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable

computer and performing a logon dialog...." However, since no docking station is disclosed,

Sistanizadeh does not disclose a <u>docking station responding</u> to a portable computer <u>being</u>

<u>connected</u> to the docking station as recited in claim 48.

Claim 48 recites, "the server arrangement, when connected to the portable computer that

is an authentic node, functioning as a domain controller for the portable computer." The

Examiner alleges this feature is disclosed by Sistanizadeh column 12, lines 21-30. This section

of Sistanizadeh discloses the portable computer being connected to a Domain Name Server for

the period of time specified by the DHCP server. However, a DNS server is different from a domain controller.

Therefore, Barnard, AAPA, and Sistanizadeh, singularly and in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above recited features of claim 48.

Accordingly, reversal of this rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

(8) **Conclusion**

For at least the reasons given above, the rejections of claims 32-48 should be reversed and these claims allowed.

Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this Appeal Brief to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 6, 2009   By _____
                                      Ashok K. Mannava
                                      Registration No.: 45,301
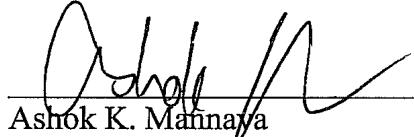
MANNAVA & KANG, P.C.
11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 652-3822
(703) 865-5150 (facsimile)

(9)   Claim Appendix

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented)   A method of discovering that a particular network node having an

assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of

which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a

discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to

the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of

the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address

of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial

access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address

of the particular node;

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the

particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the

particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery

portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and

initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for that particular node in

response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node

to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the

network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least

some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the

particular node.

33. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 32 wherein the discovery portion receives a

sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network

which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses

of the received requests from the various nodes.

34. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 33 wherein the sequence of assigned

addresses is stored as a stack that the discovery portion processes in first-in-first-out order.

35. (Previously Presented)   A method of discovering that a particular network node having an

assigned address has been connected to a computer network including (a) plural nodes, one of

which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a

discovery portion, the method comprising:

responding to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to

the network by transmitting an initial request from the particular node to the network portion of

the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address

of the particular node; the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the initial

access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion supplying the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion responding to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

36. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 35 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

37. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 36 wherein the sequence of assigned

addresses is stored as a stack that the discovery portion processes in first-in-first-out order.

38. (Previously Presented)   A storage medium or device storing machine-readable information

for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 32 on the network of claim 32.

39. (Previously Presented)   A storage medium or device storing machine-readable information

for causing a processor to execute the steps of claim 35 on the server arrangement of claim 35.

40. (Previously Presented)   A server arrangement including machine-readable information

executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node

having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including plural nodes,

one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion;

the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection

of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial

request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access

request including the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

41. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 40 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

42. (Previously Presented) The server arrangement of claim 41 wherein the storage is arranged to store the sequence of assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in first-in-first-out order.

43. (Previously Presented) A server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a processor, the server arrangement for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to a computer network including plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion;

the network portion being arranged to respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server arrangement via the network, the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node;

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network;

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular node

and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the particular node to the discovery portion;

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the configuration of the particular node.

44. (Previously Presented)   The server arrangement of claim 43 wherein the discovery portion is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

45. (Previously Presented)   The server arrangement of claim 44 wherein the storage is arranged to store the sequence of assigned addresses as a stack, the discovery portion being arranged to process the stack in first-in-first-and order.

46. (Previously Presented)   A computer network for discovering that a particular network node having an assigned address has been connected to the computer network, the network comprising:

a server arrangement including machine-readable information executed by a

processor; and

plural nodes, one of which is the particular node;

the server arrangement including:

a network portion and a discovery portion, the network portion being arranged to

respond to the establishment of the connection of the particular network node to the network by

the particular node transmitting an initial request to the network portion of the server

arrangement via the network,

the initial access request including the assigned address of the particular node, the

network portion of the server arrangement being arranged to respond to the initial access request

by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the

particular node,

the network portion being arranged to supply the discovery request and the assigned

address of the particular node to the discovery portion only after the network portion has

determined that the particular node is an authentic node of the network,

the discovery portion being arranged to respond to the discovery request applied to

the discovery portion by the network portion by storing the assigned address of the particular

node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular

node in response to the supplying of the discovery request and the assigned address of the

particular node to the discovery portion,

the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status

information about the particular node and the discovery procedure further including polling other

nodes in the network to determine a network topography, the polled network typography

including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and the

configuration of the particular node.

47. (Previously Presented)   The computer network of claim 46 wherein the discovery portion

is arranged to receive a sequence of delivery requests including assigned addresses of various

nodes of the network which have requested access to the network and includes a storage for

storing the assigned addresses on the received requests from the various nodes.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the particular node includes a

portable computer and a docking station, the docking station responding to the portable computer

being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable computer and performing

a logon dialog between the network portion of the server arrangement and the portable computer;

       the logon dialog being the initial request;

       the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the logon dialog from

the portable computer by determining if the portable computer is an authentic node of the

network;

       the server arrangement, when connected to the portable computer that is an authentic

node, functioning as a domain controller for the portable computer.

(10) Evidence Appendix

None.

(11)   Related Proceedings Appendix

None.